

BIG RED Soldiers Invade Baylor

Two Accounts by Graham Coburn and Clay Christian

View #1, by Graham Coburn

As all self-respecting, school loving, good-time-seeking eighth-graders with any sense did, I went to the Baylor game on September 19th. I was expecting a good time, but I was totally blown away. The times were good and the cheerleaders hot. I hope to do this again soon.

It started as a pretty normal day at MBA. Mr. Woolsey was "exciting," Mr. Anderson was "informative," and Mr. Speigl was "scientific," but then 7th period ended, and all thoughts of school were thrust from my mind. I rushed to

the locker room to put on my Chucks and prepared for war. I rushed back up to Massey to put my books away and receive my rations (a Twix bar and a Coke). The buses left soon after. I was on bus



*Cheerleaders... and no parents!
Photo by Lindsay Bohannon*

right, a.k.a. bus two. We had fun watching people in passing cars. The bus driver was rather, um, strict: no eating, no drinking, and we had to ask a teacher before we could use the restroom (for liability reasons I'm sure). Even so, it wasn't bad.

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Laney 2003

And Mr. Thurmond said, "Let there be Sun!"

By Kenji Alexander

Camp Laney was an experience that I will never forget. It is a trip that the seventh graders take each year, often referred to as "Camp Rainy" because it has rained almost every year except this one. We go to Mentone, Alabama, for three days, facing challenges like a high-ropes course, making boats, Egyptian kickball, Egyptian baseball, Ping-Pong, and lots of battleball.

Seventh-graders had a lot to say about this trip:

- "For two days the shower to the right was freezing cold, but I still went in it

because everyone was using the other ones. Then, on the last day, someone turned the cold switch on and it was warm." - Jeffrey Francis

- "I remember Joseph Sloan getting sick and sleeping in the heated lodge while we slept in the freezing cold cabins." - Caldwell Buntin

- "When we were playing battleball, Chunbum Park started talking about using Napkin's war theory."

J.B. Hardin

- "I will remember being dared to eat a worm and doing it. I felt sort of sick the rest of that day. Kind of ironic that we had spaghetti for lunch that day, huh?" - Jimmy Balser



Hurry! The Big Boy Britches are after us!

- "I remember when Chunbum called Connor Shope a big red dumpling, and I remember the Adventure Guild lady with armpit hair." - Kile Garrett

- "One thing I remember from Camp Laney was during the boat race. We had just started down the river when I looked out at the other teams, and my best friend

Connor was standing in his sinking boat with his arms up in the air and water up to his neck, and just sitting there cracking up. Another memorable moment was at the Pamper Pole (one of the high ropes course activities). I climbed about halfway up and thought to myself,

'What the heck am I doing?' Then I finally got to the top and felt the pole wobbling, so I jumped and grabbed the

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= MBA Welcomes =



Ginny Bakken
U.S. History

Mike Anderson
English 7/8



Amy Seiders
IPS 7

Greg Ferrell
IPS 7 & ES 8



Michael Risen
English 8 - English I

Mrs. Bakken: A Mystery to Us All

Interview by Clayton
Cothran

Her name?...Bakken, Mrs. Bakken. As a new teacher at MBA, she has attracted a lot of attention with her great history lessons and her young female presence. Still, we don't know a lot about her, so I took the time to solve a little bit of the mystery...

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BEING A FEMALE TEACHER IN AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL?

Well, I have a lot of support from great female colleagues, so that helps a lot.

In some ways, I think it's easier than a co-ed school.

OUT OF YOUR ONE QUARTER AT MBA, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY?

The one-hour lunch.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HISTORICAL EVENT AND WHY?

World War II, for sure. Since I had my second degree in psychology, I think it is interesting how all the different people had different viewpoints and mindsets.

YOU SAID YOU HAD YOUR SECOND DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY. YOUR FIRST IS OBVIOUSLY HISTORY OR EDUCATION. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ONE OVER THE OTHER?

I chose education because I can use psychology on all my crazy students,

plus use history to teach. I also chose it because grad school was shorter.

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF COLLEGE, WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE?



Joseph, do you go to any *other* help sessions?

I went to University of Alabama for my undergraduate, and University of Alabama at Birmingham for my masters.

BACK TO HISTORY.

HAVE YOU EVER GONE TO A HISTORICAL LOCATION? AND IF SO, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Yes. Throughout the world, it would have to be the whole of Rome. In this country, I personally like the Vietnam Memorial.

Thanks, Mrs. Bakken, for this wonderful interview.

MUSIC

CD Reviews

By Will Orman

A Perfect Circle - *Thirteenth Step*

This is the sophomore release from what some people call Maynard James Keenan's "side project" from Tool. One can draw similarities between Tool and A Perfect Circle, but the music is generally lighter and more radio-friendly than most of Tool, causing somewhat greater popularity. Although they have made some changes in the band since *Mer de Noms*, their first album, you can still sense their power on guitar and vocals.

"**The Package**" opens the album with drumstick beats and a very soft guitar melody. As Maynard begins to sing, you can tell how experienced he is in his vocal ability. The song steadily builds up as Maynard reaches intense heights of voice, and slides out again as it came. The single, "**Weak and Powerless**," contains harmonizing and layers of guitars that give it a good edge to grab the listener and hook him. It's a good mainstream song and a decent choice for a first single. "**Vanishing**" starts with chants of "disappear," "higher," and "no longer here," accented by drumbeats on each word. Distorted vocals and strange percussion are scattered throughout the song, and it's primarily drum and bass with a little guitar and repeating vocals,



A Perfect Circle -
Thirteenth Step

making for a generally dull track. "**The Outsider**" is easily the best song on the album, reminiscent of Tool in strength and heavy guitars, starting with a short riff and then exploding with a loud drum beat and bass underlying everything. Maynard alternates from speaking quickly to singing at high notes amidst brief, dark strums and high melodies, and the bridge consists of a solo and a background echo of vocals before the loudest and strongest section cuts off suddenly. "**Pet**" has a rough, loud riff at the beginning and a very hushed verse between each raucous chorus. The bridge is a muffled, quieted

version of another verse and an even louder interval of guitar until Maynard tells the listener to go back to sleep. This phrase is repeated into "**Lullaby**," an absolutely useless filler song with a mere drumbeat and high, unsteady, feminine vocals.

HIGHLIGHTS: "The Package," "Weak and Powerless," "The Outsider," "Pet"

LETDOWNS: "Vanishing," "Lullaby"

OVERALL RATING (out of 10): **8.3**

Pretty Girls Make Graves - *The New Romance*

An outstanding punk album by an incredible but little known band, this new CD from one of my personal favorite record labels, Matador, needs a good review and some more fans. Although people may not want a review



Pretty Girls Make Graves -
The New Romance

of a CD they've never heard of, I also have a duty to open anyone and everyone to music I believe is worth the time. As the second album in two years from this mixed gender band, Pretty Girls Make Graves extends the

boundaries for standard music as a breakthrough group that has a different kind of sound.

"**Something Bigger, Something Brighter**" starts the album off into the tapping of sticks and

rapid, impressive picking on guitar strings. As the singer, Andrea Zollo, follows along with the riff, you can see that even with the smallness of her voice, she has such potent vocals as to give you an idea of what she can do when she sings all out. This happens as the riff stops and the heavy guitar comes in as Andrea brings shouts of "I know, I know, I know, I know!" along with the electronic beeps of a keyboard, without stopping such hard rock until the end of the track. Such an explosive opener is only foreshadowing for the rest of the album. "**All Medicated Geniuses**" starts with the yelling of a male vocalist, and then Andrea's melodic voice accompanied by the constant dueling of guitars, playing high and low, carrying into extremes on each end. It is definitely the most powerful song on the album, with alternation between equally powerful male and female vocals. "**Chemical, Chemical**" describes the problems of autistic children, with bending of guitar strings and completely

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= SCHOOL EVENTS =

Ramsden "Creams" Moynihan!

By Matthew Sternberg

It was the ice cream eating match of the century: Tyler Ramsden versus John Moynihan. These two competitors, contending for no apparent reason other than an obsession for ice cream, took up the challenge of the most ounces of ice cream eaten in forty minutes. The match was held on

Wednesday
September
25, during the first half of lunch, given that the seventh graders were at Camp Laney.



I'm still hungry!

All was peaceful in the cafeteria; then, in strode Tyler, looking hungry for victory. Next, John stepped in, moving with a rolling swagger. They both claimed that they could eat more ice cream than the other.

As their closest peers surrounded Tyler and John, the clock started. Matthew Sternberg and Daniel Givens ran back and forth bringing ice cream to the competitors. Jimmy Russell exclaimed "Tyler, I've got five bucks on you. Eat faster!" Tyler got off to an early start eating 1.5 ounces more than John by the mid-point of the competition. Their hands shook as they struggled to unwrap and shove down ice

Shaub's Secret Strategies

By Johnny Mishu

The process of selling Spaghetti Supper Tickets is simple; it involves two words: JIM SHAUB. Now, in case you haven't noticed, Jim has sold about a billion tickets. The day we received our tickets, Jim Shaub burned to achieve his prize: those totally sweet PING golf clubs.

On Selling Day, Jim went to just about every possible being above the age of 18 to sell and sell. Not only he, but I, as well as many others, attempted to sell a couple of tickets that day.

When I approached Mr. Cooper to inquire about selling tickets, I got an "Already bought some from Jim."

When I saw Mrs. Qian in the

cream bar after ice cream bar. Closing off, they ate a combined total of 14 ice cream bars, 4 strawberry shortcake bars, 2 fudge bars, and 5 cups of ice cream. These totaled 89 ounces, or 5.6 pounds. The winner, however, was Tyler Ramsden, eating 48 ounces of ice cream, the equivalent of 3 pounds.

After the competition, John Moynihan lay in the corner holding his stomach while Tyler bragged, "I'm still hungry!"

Conference Room, I thought it'd be a good time to ask, "Spaghetti Supper Tickets, Mrs. Qian?"

"I'm sorry, Johnny. I already bought some from --."

I interrupted her in mid sentence and said, "Let me guess, a short beggar?" I was trying to show humor in my statement, but inside I was furious.

"No, Jim Shaub."

AAAAHHHH. All other faculty and staff replied more or less with the same answer.

When I approached Shaub and asked him to tell me how he sold his tickets, he gave me the curt reply "no." Now, the normal person would assume that if he didn't have a sly and sneaky

way of selling, he would tell me how he did it. But, if Jim had the ultimate way of selling, he would keep it secret as he did. There are a number of ways he could sell the tickets.

Jim Shaub in the kitchen of his family-owned Waffle House: "My daddy will fire you don't buy tickets."

Jim Shaub at the next-door neighbor's with the beggar approach: "Please, Mister. I promise you that you will have my family's and my ultimate love and affection. If that doesn't convince you, we can throw in a couple bucks."

Jim Shaub with archival Lindsay Bohannon: "I'll buy a 100 from you if you buy a 100 from me." (That approach worked, considering that Lindsey won the DVD player, another top prize.)

Well, if you feel bad knowing Jim always wins the big prize, just remember that the well-in-tune Shaub used the simple yet successful equation: Jim Shaub + Charisma + Connections + Powerful Persuasion = Spaghetti Supper tickets sold.



"Hey, Mrs. Palmore! I'll

WORDS FROM THE WISE

Mr. Thurmond's Rules for Dating

By Robbie Weikert and Daniel Givens

Mr. Thurmond often uses math class to offer dating advice, such as the following:

1. Always run a background check. Mr. Thurmond believes in knowing all about your 'honeybumpkin.'

2. Make sure your girlfriend doesn't have more facial hair than you. Mr. Thurmond, a.k.a. Wheatie-Man, heard many stories about Wilson...

3. Make sure your girlfriend isn't an inanimate object. Mr. Wheatie also heard about Swan's exotic hobby...



Mr. Thurmond tells Nicholas how to get a "honeybumpkin"

4. Never tell Mr. Thurmond who your girlfriend is... especially if it's Carl's sister. When Mr. Thurmond finds out that something happened between you and 'Ms. Grote,' then he will get a few extra points deducted from the pop quiz...

5. If you find yourself attracted to boys, remember that it's that time of year again; the birds are chirping, and the spring air is flowing.

6. Never have a significant other that is the same gender as you. Snowy and Colbert got 'caught' last year for this one...

7. Make sure she isn't more than three times your weight. Mr. Thurmond is bound to make many math problems about this one, thanks to Swan!

Pamela vs. Jimmy

Is Jimmy Anderson Really Her Son?!
Jimmy Claims YES!

By Swan Burrus

Jimmy Anderson.....wow!!!!

Enough said!!! As said by most girls who walk by him, "He's soooooo hot!" He winks back at them and says, "You ain't lookin so bad yourself, baby," and they faint. This simple example proves what Jimmy Anderson can do to girls. Jimmy is often asked if his "so-called mother" is the all-known, all-loved, Pamela Anderson. (See above if you haven't



Jimmy's Mom Has Got It Goin' On...



...No Comment

already.) The question is "IS SHE REALLY HIS MOM??" Look at the resemblance: check out the eyes; don't they match perfectly??? Look at those br...ows; they are almost identical. Of course their hair matches. The skin color, the nose, the teeth, there are so many resemblances. Surprisingly enough, Jimmy even looks like her in a bikini (also see above). So are these hot

superstars really mother and son??? Jimmy Anderson replies, "Of course she is my mother. She had me when she was eighteen, but I got put up for adoption. Now I'm living happily with my new mother. I haven't even seen Mama Pamela since my departure. I wish..." OK, with that said, we now know (kinda?).

== FEATURES ==

Lunchtime

By Brendan Mayhew

It is the favorite time of anyone's day. For all the seventh and eighth graders, it comes at either the first or second half of fourth period. At the lunch table food is (obviously) a very popular conversation subject.

When I was elected to be the *Top of the Hill* features editor, the thought came to my mind to write an article on the lunch period. After many days of walking through the lines, taking polls, and testing the very food the Sage Food Service supplies, I finally decided that a top ten list of all the favorite foods is in order. I asked the opinions of junior school students and teachers. Here's what they said: "What's that in my bread? It's alive," "Why don't they turn the TV's sound on," "This chicken nugget is hollow, and this one here, it's half-eaten!" It is also a fact that in one line, not saying which, you get ten warm, crispy nuggets instead of four cold, crusty ones. I asked one teacher if he wanted to say anything good about the lunchroom issue, but he declined comment. When I asked him to speak about a negative side, he said, "Chicken Nuggets." But the most gruesome detail that had to be saved for last was that John Ramsey, an eighth grader, claimed to have found a chicken head in a chicken nugget. An exaggeration, right, John?? Or are you confused with a trip to McDonald's?

While there are many negatives, there are still several compliments. For example, one seventh

grader said that he loves the atmosphere. It is all you can eat for one low price.

Now, on to the much-awaited top ten list of the cafeteria's most tasty entrées:

1. Breakfast: Hot fluffy biscuits, home-style gravy, sausage patty, warm round egg, and the popular French toast sticks are the junior school's top main course (kind of strange how it isn't even a lunch meal).

2. Chicken Nuggets: Although some despise these golden brown spheres, they come in at a close number two.

3. Hot Wings: Apparently, the students like burning all of their taste buds off.

4. Macaroni: Oozy, gooey, cheesy, soft, and warm on your tongue. Who could resist this classic meal?

5. Pizza: Mangia! Mangia! What does it mean? You don't care; you just love having pizza that is served everyday for three weeks straight.

6. Hamburgers: One all-beef patty, lettuce, ketchup, pickles, tomato, and cheese on a toasty bun.

7. Tacos: One of the more popular dishes, but knocked back to seven because they sometimes use Sloppy Joe meat instead of taco meat!

8. Spaghetti: Enjoy this pile of noodles smothered in either rich red meat sauce or creamy Alfredo sauce. Bon appetite!

9. Meat loaf and taters: Mr. Woolsey adores this mystery meat.

10. Quiche: rounding off the list is one of Jon Eisen's favorite. It is a cheesy egg baked into a piecrust.

There you have it, the top ten favorite foods of the junior school. Believe what you want, maybe these legends are fiction; that is for you to decide. And although this article pokes

a little fun, it is in no way meant to cut down Sage food services. WE LOVE LUNCHTIME!



Must*Gasps* have... Ice cream!



Hey, look what I found!

BIG RED Soldiers, cont. from pg. 5

the absurd clicking, and the fact that we couldn't see the game from our seats. (We were able to see the cheerleaders however.) It was pretty fun. Ben Fredericks bought four ring pops and, well, let's just say he had some serious bling bling (not to mention a tremendous sugar high afterwards). After countless hours of yelling to The Great One, he finally looked at us, twice even!!! (Thanks, Tom Santi, we bow before you.) The final score was MBA 40-something to Baylor's 10-something, and everyone ran out onto the field like crazy freaks. After we ran over and assaulted The Great One for being so great, we got on the bus.

The ride back included such things as the driver swerving (in the middle of the *Cast Away* plane crash scene too. Scary) and someone peeing all over the floor of the bathroom. (Maybe that's why the driver made us ask the teacher before we went.) I was then half asleep when we arrived home.

What is the Deal on NCAA Football 2004?

By Daniel Green

I've had this game for about a month now, and I'm so attached to it that I have already racked up over six days' worth of playing time. The first option of play is called Exhibition Mode; you can pick from any Division I-A or I-AA team to play in a normal everyday game. You can also pick from a selection of classic teams, such as Knute Rockne's 1924-47 National Championship teams and even last year's Ohio State Buckeyes. As you move back in years, the jerseys and the

your team is), but if you are not able to accomplish these goals, then be ready to hit the door cuz your outta there! This brings me to another great part of the Dynasty Mode: being able to be fired, rehired, or take another job. At the end of my first season with Florida, with whom I finished 14-0 and won the National Championship with (what a fantasy,) I was given three job offers, one to Texas, another to Oregon State, and the last to Oklahoma. I, of course, declined them all and was rewarded with a four-year extension to my contract! But if you hate your team, you can quit and try to get a job or your Dynasty is ended. There are bowl games and specific awards, such as the Heisman or the Coach of the Year award. You can control your team's run or pass offense percentage, coaching strategy, aggressive or conservative game play,

loser in classic games win. My favorite is Notre Dame vs. Penn State "Snow Bowl," where you have forty-seven seconds to get down the field (as Notre Dame) and score some sort of point (considering you are down 10-9.) I won this classic game by kicking a fifty-one yard field goal, GO IRISH! What is the point of winning these games, you ask? Personal happiness and unlocking them for play in Exhibition Mode. Another game mode is "Rivalry Game." Play as any college team or one of their rivals in a normal game. Win as one of the teams to unlock both in regular Exhibition Mode; an example is Florida Gators vs. Florida State Seminoles. The last game mode is the "Mascot Game." This is where you can pick any two teams' mascots and play in a game against each other. This mode is pretty pointless, but it is still kind of funny to

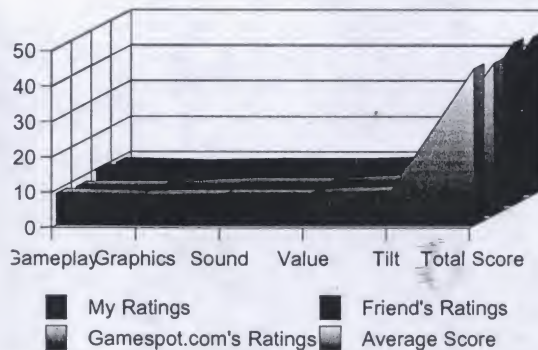
*What is the point? . . .
Personal happiness*

helmets of the players change (from 3-Beam helmets to Single-Beam ones.) The next option of play is Dynasty Mode, which is definitely the highlight of this game. In Dynasty Mode, you can pick any Division I-A team or I-AA team and coach them through multiple seasons. You are also able to customize your coach to resemble and have the same name as you. The school you pick has set goals for you to accomplish; usually it is to keep your team's prestige (one-six stars depending on how good

and subbing. In the off-season, you are able to recruit for your team next year and customize your schedule for the next season. I do not think the high-school recruits are very accurate because I have not found Tom Santi or Michael Fisher. Another great part of this game is "College Classic" mode where you are able to "change history" by making a

see a bunch of fat, furry costumes playing football and being tackled! I have only covered a few aspects of this great game so definitely rent it or buy this game and see what else is in the game. It is available for X-Box, Gamecube, and PS2.

NCAA Final Four



And Then There Were Ratings...

SPORTS

8th Grade Football

By Will Adams and Worth Baker

This year the 8th grade football team finished with a record of 7-1, the only loss coming to the Blue Tornadoes of McCallie in Chattanooga. To kick off the season, the team played at Woodland, defeating the Warriors 14-8. Two shut outs and a loss later, the Big Red went to Springfield to take on a team that was yet to be scored upon and defeated them 18-3. Austin Bennett ran the Yellow Jackets ragged and threw two touchdowns passes to Nathan Wade. Carlton Baker rushed for another touchdown. Jay Cole and Preston Bailey not only paved the way for the running game but also lit up the opposing line on defense, letting Ben Bartholomew, Warren Cook, and E.J. Vinsang run untouched all over the field. Andrew Snow also had a huge tackle to bring up 4th and long for the Yellowjackets, which they did not convert. The second string offense led by Mike Byrge, Worth Baker, and John Ramsey never gave them the ball back. In the Big Red Bowl, the defense suffocated the Eagles of BA and were once again led by Jay Cole. MBA's offensive linemen dominated BA, and

Carlton Baker had a field day running right through the BA secondary. Swan Burrus had a huge interception which led to another Carlton Baker touchdown, leading to a 28-0 blowout to close the season. The team was proud of its season and would like to thank coaches Robin Henderson, David Maddux, Steele Yancey, and Coach "Run-because-I-don't-like-you" Gruber.

Following past traditions, here are some nicknames of the players: Austin "On 3" Bennett; Carlton "This is how you hold the ball" Baker; Jay "2 Sizes Too Large" Cole; Preston "Boo-Boo" Bailey; Nathan "Handy" Wade; Andrew "Facemask" Harris; Robert "Skullcap" Rolfe; Ben "I Do Too Hit Hard" Bartholemew;



"Why won't you go to your home, ball!"

E.J. "I'm Not Late" Vinsang; Jay "Football Because of Football" Milam; Worth "The Weakest Link" Baker; Charlie "?" Christoferson; Mike "Running QB" Byrge; Jonathan "Gloves" Haynes; Frank "Hamstring" Adelman; Travis "Played More Than I Did" Tipton; Tee "Snickers and Gatorade" Stumb; Walter "O My Arm" Corn; Will "Varsity Manager" Adams

The Tale of the Duffers

By Daniel Leader

The golf team got under way in a new season with Coach Kelly leading the pack. The team got off to a good start, winning all but two of their matches in the regular season. The golf team had several interesting players, including Robert Awh and his club chucking abilities at random times during a practice round, and Nicholas Conception with his so called rap impressions on the way to matches, which were more like lullabys. John Burch fired the low round two under 31 in the CPA Invitational, placing first and giving the team their second win of the season, while Jimmy Anderson and Rob Broadhurst battled in a play-off for third and fourth place. Rob ended up placing third by sinking a fifty-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole, and sending Jimmy and another boy from Grassland Middle to one more hole, which Jimmy won by two putting for par while the other boy made bogey, giving Jimmy fourth place. The team also had several extremely bad scores at crucial moments during the matches. At the HVAC tournament at the end of the season, the team did not play very well and ended up placing third out of twelve teams, but Daniel Leader placed second out of about seventy golfers by winning a three-hole playoff with three other people. The team was going to Hooters if they won the HVAC championship at the end of the year, but sadly they did achieve either goal. All in all, the golf team had a decent season, going three and four, not bad, but they did not do as well as they would have liked.

SPORTS

Microbe Cross- Country

"The Eye Of the
Tiger!"

By Morey Hill and Zan Berry

When you think of this year's microbe cross country team, many things come to mind: our wonderful coaches, Coach Russell and Coach Ferrell, our random war cry "SPOON!" the tiny seventh graders, or uhhh running, but there is only word that can accurately describe every aspect of our team: beast. This year we successfully moved from enlisted men to the warriors that Coach Russell wanted us to be. (Or at least I think and hope we did) Of course, Zan and Morey were warriors from the beginning, but that's beside the point. In our

first meet, we were narrowly defeated by BMS. In the second meet, we were beaten by BMS in a close race again. Our next meet was at CPA, and Tyler Ramsden was able to beat the runner from BMS that had beaten him in the last meets. Even though Tyler came in first place, the rest of our team was still not able to pull out the victory mainly because of Ben Crownover's terrible case of poison ivy that hurt so bad at

the end of the meet that he had to stop. For our next meet, we came back to our "home"

course, Vaughn's Creek. In this meet, we finally had BMS off of our tails, and we were able to pull out our first victory. Our next

and final meet before the HVAC championship was at Freedom Middle School. This meet was the hardest one of the year; our seventh graders were at Camp Laney, and we had to race against the monstrous Freedom team, made up of

almost sixteen runners. We barely pulled this one off; we had runners in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th (Tyler, Jake, Jimmy, Sloan, and Jon). Finally, the time had come for the H V A C Championship

meet. Before the meet, we ate healthy Subway sandwiches and watched the motivational movie, *Rocky III*. This movie taught us valuable lessons that we could use in the meet, such as, if someone passes you in the meet, knock him out, and never mess with big people that want to kill you. After the movie was over, we drove to Vaughn's Creek and prepared for Coach Russell's usual warrior speech, but there wasn't

one. He even said that there wasn't going to be a motivational speech. He

lied. We walked up to the starting line thirty minutes later after the speech. The pressure was on Zan and Morey. However, there was no pressure on Tyler, just the fate of our team, the championship trophy, and his future as a runner. The gun was fired and the race began; several of our runners tripped at

the beginning (and I'm really being serious this time). I think everyone ran his best in this meet. We won the Championship, thanks to Tyler in first, Jake Gideon in third, Jimmy Okot in sixth, Branson Morris in twelfth, Daniel Givens in sixteenth, and Morey Hill in eighty-third. It was a great season and many people on our team earned nicknames:

Daniel (Oh captain our captain) Givens
Tyler (I still like to slack off in practice but this year I get first in the meets even though I take a wrong turn and have to go back) Ramsden
Graham (The Beast) Coburn
Jake (Tyler, I'll pay you if you let me beat you) Gideon
Branson (That kid is fast) Morris
Nick (Coach Russell: "Nick stop laughing this is serious") Williams
Knight (Kanigit) Hammock
Austin (The sexiest leprechaun) Archer
Sam (I'm goin' Commando) Robinson
Jimmy (I have a 4:45 mile) Okot
Matt (Too slow to finish in the top ten) Sternberg
Jimmy (I won't be quiet when Mr. Russell is speaking) Russell



The reason why we run cross-country



Ramsden leaves us all in the dust...

== AROUND SCHOOL ... ==

What Carl Loves . . .



. . . Dane Ferré



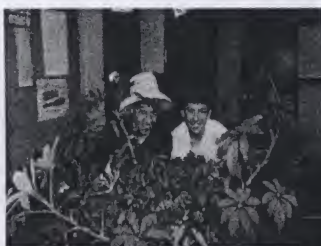
. . . Austin Powers



. . . Geography

Bad Luck in the Cemetery

8th Grade **Tom Sawyer** Skits . . .



*Sloan to Jay: "I
wisht I hadn't
come."*



Andy: Cats Galore



*Andrew: "Help, I'm
dead and I can't get
out!"*

==NEW FACES==

MBA Welcomes New 8th Graders



Jimmy Okot



Will Davis



Jonathan Haynes



Matt Ferrell



John Burch



Curtis Lovelace

7TH GRADE PERSPECTIVE

The Education of an "Uncool Mom"

By Kenji Alexander

I have found that moms aren't very cool nowadays, so I tried to make my mom into a cool person. I gave her some pointers, and she wrote them down from her perspective.

"Fifty Cent" is not two quarters. The singer's real name is Curtis Jackson! Now every parent knows this, right? "Eight Mile" is not only a little longer than the 10K run; it is also "an awesome movie."

"Eminem" comes in more than just "plain" or "peanut" flavors! Seventh graders are "young men," not "little boys" — although some of them are about half my size, and I am just a shrimp myself!

Ja Rule is not some Middle Eastern king or ancient ruler or some obscure rule in the MBA handbook; he is a rapper.

P. Diddy? This sounds like a misspelled nickname for "a daddy who goes to the bathroom all day long"! Puffdaddy??? Oh, no, I am not even going there!

"Hottie" — a word that has replaced "Babe" in the seventh grade vocabulary. Rap music, with constant talking, is considered great singing!

"Pizza" and "Nachos" — favorite food of seventh graders. Favorite MBA cafeteria food is tacos. Fruit and vegetables? They are "only for

cavemen!"

Favorite drink is Vanilla Coke. Other "cool" drinks are Tropical Sprite Remix, Sierra Mist, Pepsi Blue and Dr. Pepper Red Fusion.

The definition of "hot" — Angelina, Carmen, Beyonce, Pamela, Hilary, J.Lo, Avril, etc., etc. Get the drift here.... plenty of exercise, lots of fruit and vegetables (salads also, boys!), and good looks with the help of plastic surgery!

Lucky #13 is "Shake Ya Tailfeather!" — the most popular song right now. Actually, I hate to admit it, but I did start liking this song. It "grows" on you, and it is great dance music for all those wild and crazy seventh grade dancers.

Anyone over 30 years old — so very old! Over 40 years old — ancient! Over 50 years old — an antique! Over 60 years old — prehistoric! I was afraid to ask about over 70!!!

Most popular singer — why, obviously, who else but "Fifty Cent"! Come on parents, where have you been living, on Mars? How can Moms, like myself, (and Dads as well,) be so dumb and "out of it"? "Duh"!

7th Grade Football

By Kenji Alexander

It's Patrick Crum, more Patrick Crum, and even more Patrick Crum!!! Seventh grade football is like 8-year-old baseball. There are only a few good players on the team. Patrick was basically our whole offense. "It's Patrick Crum for 34 yards!" "Patrick Crum for a 12 yard gain!" "Patrick Crum in for the touchdown!" That is what the announcers were always saying at our

games. Without Patrick we would be nothing. Here are some other "Hall of Famers" on the seventh grade football team:

Scott Bubis - Luke Cole - David Mills - Joseph Sloan - Perry Webb

Looking at these stars playing so well made me feel like I wasn't that good. I probably wasn't, because it was my first year playing football. Still, I was a little jealous, but I really enjoyed playing the game, and we had an enthusiastic group of players.

At first, I thought the practice conditions were kind of harsh, since we started practicing once a week in July. When school started, we went on the field every day. The air was hot, and the helmet made it even hotter. Getting knocked on my butt by Scott Bubis didn't help much either. But, eventually, I got used to it. After a hard day of football, I always felt a sense of accomplishment.

The players on the team made me feel welcome, and helped me out. I didn't even know where the pads went on my pants the first day of football practice, but Connor Shope showed me how to get them in place. Coach Sawyer also supported and encouraged me a lot, and so did my mom.

Our team went 4-2, winning our first 4 games. I think we started to get a little cocky after that, and lost to David Lipscomb and Brentwood Academy. But I had a great time, and hope to play next year. We should be good, with Drew Turner as another option at quarterback (he couldn't play this year), and Patrick Crum probably coming back. I will hopefully be better, and we might go undefeated. If 8th grade football is anything like 7th grade football, I should have lots of fun next year.

FEATURES

School of Rock:

A Movie Review

By Corey Metzman

Although *School of Rock* does not have the best cast, it is a surprisingly entertaining film which grossed 19.6 million over its first weekend. It stars Jack Black in one of his first roles as a major character. When this picture first begins, it gives an air of your typical sloppy guy pursuing a seemingly impossible profession. In this case, that "guy" attempts to become a renowned guitarist in a Rock and Roll band. It opens with Dewey Finn, played by Black, performing with his band and making a total fool of himself. He has absolutely no conception of how he appears and acts on stage. Finn shares an apartment with an old friend, Ned Schneebly, and Schneebly's demanding girlfriend. Ned has recently gotten out of the music business and has become a substitute teacher. The yearly Battle of the Bands competition is nearing, and Dewey has a great desire to win it this year, mainly for the \$20,000 purse. The plot begins to get interesting when Dewey is booted from

his band and is left without a job (not a positive and even humorous that he had much of one in the first place). That afternoon, a phone call comes requesting a fifth-grade substitute teacher at a prestigious private school, Horace Green Elementary. Dewey takes the call and suddenly decides to impersonate Ned and take the job. After his first few hours with his new job, Dewey, under the alias of Mr. S., sees the kids in their concert band class and develops a clever plot. Over the next few weeks, "Mr. S." instructs his new class in the principles of Rock and Roll and teaches



Starring Jack Black

them how to play some very challenging songs. He is forced to give every child in the class a part in the band, and assigns some of the students as security personnel, sound and light managers, a n d groupies. He later nixes the groupie idea due to pressure from the

relationship with the school's principal, Rosalie Mullins, whom he even manages to get drunk once or twice. One boy, when given the job of sound proofing the classroom, promptly declares in a

"Wait, can I be the fashion designer?"

actions when the band clothes are designed to be sequined, pink, purple, and neon green. He tells the young boy that those probably aren't the best outfits for rock stars. The lead guitarist in the band, Zack, has a flair for playing that is rarely seen at such a young age. The piano player desperately wants to be cool and the drummer can even be seen playing cards with druggies. Yes, Dewey's newly formed band, aptly called the School of Rock, does perform at the Battle of the Bands. So, do they win? You'll have to see the movie to find out. In conclusion, due to this movie's novel plot and humorous appeal, I'll give it an 8 out of 10.



Ladies and Gentleman, Welcome to the School of Rock

class brown-noser, Summer. Intertwined with the band training, Dewey develops

=BUFFALO RIVER=

Our Trip To the Buffalo River

(and what really went on in Dr. Marro's bus)

By Jimmy Russell

On September 13, the eighth grade went on a canoe trip to the Buffalo River. Only 25 boys were allowed to go on this canoe trip, and luckily, I was one of the few, the proud, the paddlers. One of the minor setbacks, though allowing us more time to canoe, was the time at which we had to get there. I had to get up at 5:00, get ready, get something to eat, and leave at six to get to Harpeth Hall at 6:30. My dad didn't know how to get there, so we used a map. Because of my lack of map-reading skills and my inability to tell left from right, it took a little longer than we expected.

After getting there, we were assigned to our buses. To our dismay, we did not mix with the girls, but at least I got on the bus with Dr. Marro. At first the trip was uneventful, with occasional beatings of Robbie (for no particular reason really), bothering people who were trying to sleep, and getting beatings myself for knocking

peoples' hats off. Then we found out that there was a CD player on the bus, and the real fun began. We played CDs that Tyler Wright had, such as The All-

American Rejects, Chumbawumba, and mixed CDs. We could even see Dr. Marro headbang when we were driving. Some of my favorite things we listened to were The All American Rejects: "Short Skirt, Long Jacket" by Cake; "It's the End of the World" by REM; and "The Scottish Rock" by I don't know who. Probably everyone's favorite (including mine), was "Tubthumping," by Chumbawumba. To those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, remember that hit song "I Get Knocked Down" that died when we eighth graders were in first or second grade? Well, it came back to life on this bus. The whole bus was singing it, and I think the other buses could even hear us sing.



Danielle, *Pretty in Pink*

us, we got to the canoeing part. Each canoe would accommodate three people. I went with Will Adams. Besides the fact that Will tried to kill me on numerous occasions, it was fun canoeing the Buffalo River with him. The scenery was amazing. What still baffles me is how something so beautiful could be so painful. They gave us these cruel and unusual devices of torture they called paddles. All it was was rowing and rowing, switching from left to right, losing feeling in my arms. It made me think of those people in that "Row Your Boat" song. How could they row down the stream 'merrily?' Were they body-builders? That couldn't be. What moron would have bodybuilders in a children's song? The paddles did come in handy though, when we would crash into other boats "accidentally" and by coincidence swing our paddles directly in the paths of the fellow paddlers' heads. As we meandered down the river, we would continuously get stuck or crash into the bank of the river. Part of this faulty strategy was probably due to my previously mentioned inability to tell right from left. Will would shout from behind, "Put your paddle to the left, your other left, you moron." I think this problem of mine is what drove Will to try to kill me. Instead of clubbing me or shooting me to death, he decided to try it in an indirect way. He would steer our boat just under a very low limb to try to take my head off. But then I would do all these matrix moves on the limbs to avoid them.



Ramsden States How Many Subjects He Failed!

(Pause for heavenly music.) When we got through talking about the rules, even though it had absolutely no effect on

==MBA ISSUES==

MBA and Brighton: Expanding the Campus

By Mason Braswell

The fifteen houses on the nearby section of Brighton Avenue have appealed to MBA for quite some time as a means to expand the school. Nearly eight years ago, MBA's board of Trustees agreed to expand MBA's campus onto Brighton. The board discussed the prospect with those who would be affected, and, in 1998, the first house was purchased with Metro's approval. An authorization was possible given that Brighton was not specifically zoned, and thus, it did not fall under the guidelines of the Conservation Overlay.

MBA's current property does not provide for further expansion if needed. The acquisition of these properties would allow for numerous possibilities. Concepts include extending the gym to the sophomore lot, providing parking space on Brighton. Another concept would convert the lots along Brighton into another field, allowing lacrosse and other sports ample areas for practice. The area could also accommodate tennis courts, leaving the area now occupied by the courts open to parking, easing the nightmare of overcrowding.

However, MBA has no definite plan for the development of the land at this point, considering all that must occur before expansion could proceed.

MBA must obtain five more of the fifteen houses, a formidable task due to the mixed messages from homeowners regarding the issue. The remaining homeowners who wish to protect the neighborhood are concerned that MBA would pressure them into selling their homes by demolishing the ten houses MBA already owns. However, the Board of Trustees' plan is not to pressure the remaining homeowners, but, in fact, to reach a fair and realistic compromise. "MBA has always let the homeowner come to us first," says Mr. Bradford Gioia, headmaster. The price for attaining the houses averages \$350,000, but MBA pays a competitive retail value for each home. The focus is a mutual compromise benefiting both MBA and those living on Brighton.

Camp Laney cont.

trapeze, but it slipped and I fell. I got caught in my harness, and I knew it was safe, but I still shook for the next five minutes." - D r e w Blackwell
 -"Heavy fire showered our small band that was once a massive army of hyper children." - Sam Page (talking

about battleball)

Personally, I will always remember the funny things Chunbum said. Besides the anecdotes mentioned above, he told Branson Morris that if he did not be quiet, Chunbum would cook his head in a skillet! He also said, "Pick the reeds. They draw nutrients from the soil, and make the soil good-for-nothing," and, "Everyone! Wake up! We must get up, go outside, and adjust our body temperature!" We enjoy Chunbum's friendliness and unique expressions.

On this trip, we all learned to overcome our fears, to trust one another, and to be more confident in ourselves and in what we can accomplish. Sometimes, people you did not know were supporting you, with your life in their hands. This trust was apparent on the rock-climbing wall when other seventh graders were belaying you. The camp food was delicious, and telling stories around a campfire under thousands of stars was really cool. I had lots of fun at Camp Laney. I made many new friends there and got to know some of my classmates a lot better. This trip was an experience I will never forget.



Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

=BUFFALO RIVER=

We stopped twice during our journey. At the first place we stopped, all we really did was push each other in the river over and over again until we got hypothermia in this below-freezing water. (Of course if it were below freezing, it would be ice, but that's beside the point.) We would also try to make trains to flow on this incredibly slow current. At our second stop, all I really did was skip rocks. My record was four or five, but Morey, the skipping rock king, (if there is any such title) probably got eight or nine skips. We also got Tyler and Daniel's boat to flip over. And I still want to know how Dane' ended up with two hotties in his canoe, and I was stuck with Will Adams.

The first people that got to the end of the canoe trip were Austin Branstetter and Jon Jon Eisen. Will Adams and I were the second people to get there. Andrew Harris and a girl whom I don't know were in the third boat to arrive. All this working we did made us all hungry. I was coming close to knowing how hungry people in Somalia feel right now. But since this was a canoe trip, not a Vietnam prisoner of war camp, there was food at the end. I thought I had just walked into paradise, a paradise where the food and the girls kept on coming. There were hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, brownies, sodas, you name it, and we had it. I ate until my stomach was about to explode, and I even had entertainment. I got to watch Corey get slapped on the back over and over again, even getting a turn myself. There was also a bunch of dogs there.

Everyone was going "AwwwwwAwwwww" at them and petting them. I tried to pet a dog that seemed to have rabies, and let's just leave it at that. Tyler Wright kept on torturing dogs by trying to feed them tomatoes. If there were a food for heaven and h%*#, then

blue crab would be the heavenly food, and tomatoes would be from h%*#.

Finally, it was time to return home from this little slice of heaven. This time we got

by a long shot. Robbie found it amusing to keep on pulling on the hair of a girl named Kathleen. For those of you who don't know Kathleen, here is a definition of her. Kathleen Catherall: a primitive species who uses hard objects, such as bricks and lead pipes, to beat down her prey. She enjoys torturing her victims by shoving whole brownies in their ears. On the whole bus ride, people would steal other peoples' hats. Wilson left his hat on the bus, and we had a lot of fun with it. On one occasion, a girl named Emily stole my hat. She kept it for a long



Kathleen Angry! KATHLEEN SMASH!

to go co-ed on the buses (YES!!!). Of course, I got on Dr. Marro's bus, the greatest bus in the universe. We started off by putting in a CD given to us by a girl named Sandi. She called it her "Gangsta Rap CD." I don't know how she could call it a Gangsta Rap CD because all it had was Justin Timberlake and Eminem. I could see John sitting in the back, miserable from this awful music. I was sitting next to a girl named Rachel, but, probably because of my stunning looks, she was overwhelmed and moved to a different seat. A girl named Claire sat next to me instead. If you read this, Claire, I'm sorry, but you really should remain seated during a bus ride. Claire fell down for a record of about forty times (she fell down a lot more, but it got so ridiculous I stopped counting). When she would stand, Dr. Marro, the Eternal God of Fire, would tap on the brakes, making the bus jolt and Claire fly forward. John even yelled at Dr. Marro to slam on the brakes one time to get Claire to fly out of her seat; it worked. We also had a headbanging contest (well, sort of) and Claire won

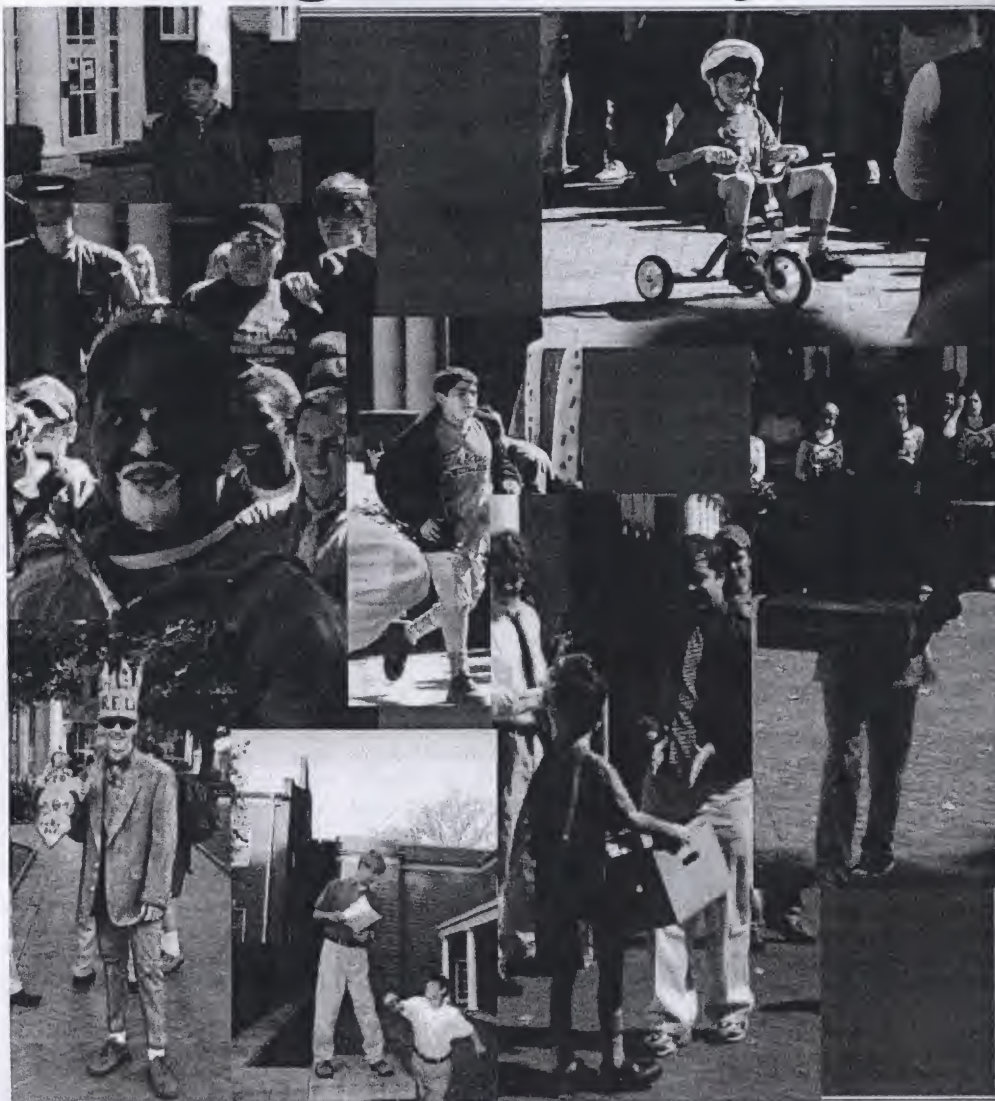
"...we got to our destination and had first contact with the girls. (Pause for heavenly music.)"

period of time; one attempt after another failed to get it back. Then, someone snatched it from her, and it started flying all over the bus from one person to another. When it got to Daniel, he threw it to me, way over my head, toward the open window. My heart stopped, it was my favorite hat, and everyone on the bus was quiet. I looked up, and it was out the window. I hooked on a bungee cord, flew out the window, caught it just in time, swung around the bus, and came in on the other side. Actually it would be cool if that did happen, but it didn't; my hat just barely missed the window.

Well, that's all that really happened on this trip; it was fun while it lasted, but all good things come to an end, as a wise man said. I don't know who, but if you want to be stupid enough to go look it up, be my guest. Until next time, this is Jimmy de Moses (otherwise known as Jimmy Russell) signing off.

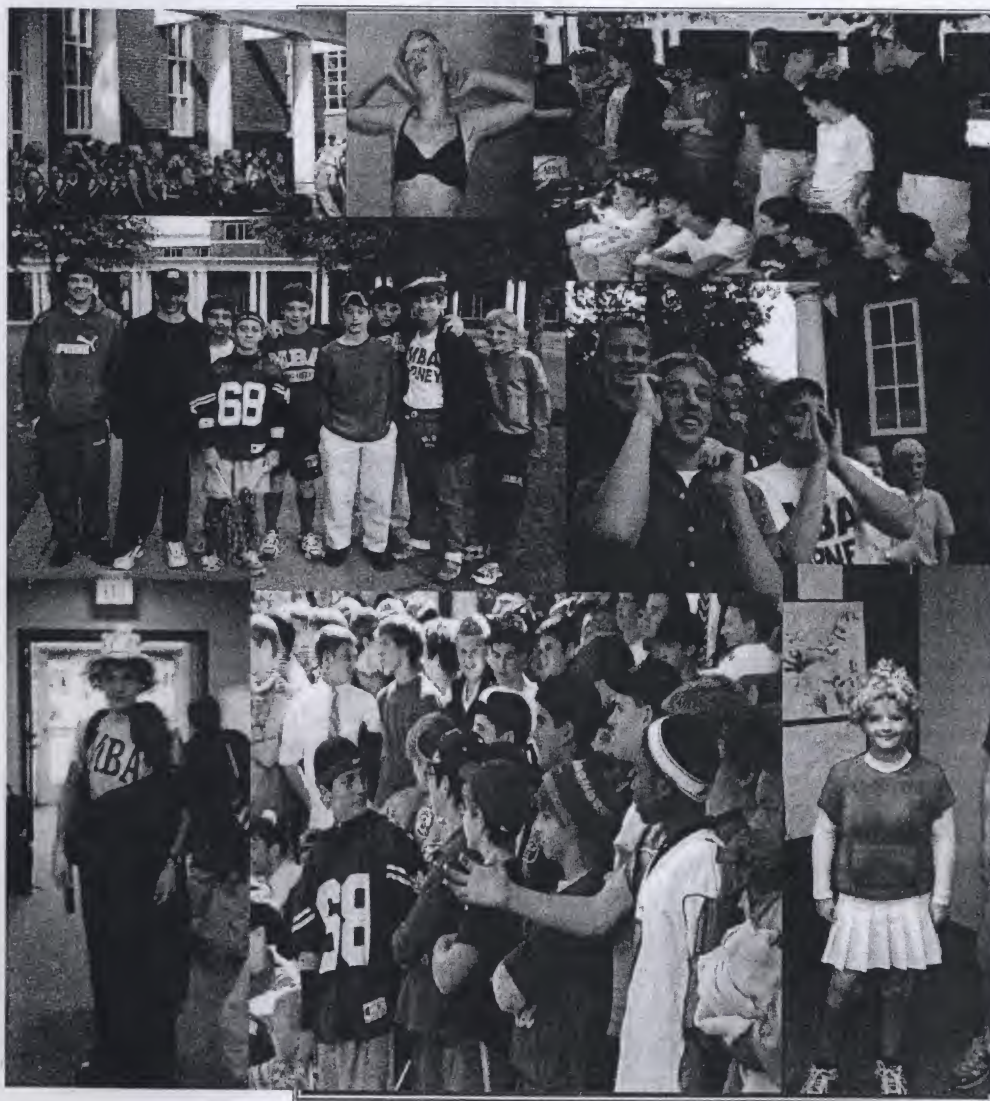
==WHAT WERE==

Big Red Day



=THEY THINKING?=-

October 3, 2003



==CONGRATS!==

Home Room Presidents and Service Reps

7th Grade

Mr. Anderson - Pres. Chris Anderson and SR Wade Nelson
 Mr. Wims - Pres. Martin Luplow and SR Owen Lipscomb
 Mrs. Bourland - Pres. Scott Ramsey and SR Houston Oldham
 Mrs. Steele - Pres. Drew Turner and SR Patrick Crum
 Mrs. Seifers - Pres. Perry Webb and SR Brian Swenson
 Mr. Cooper - Pres. Reed Stanberry and SR Austin Archer
 Mr. Brown - Pres. Caldwell Ritter and SR John Floyd

8th Grade

Mrs. Christeson - Pres. Andrew Harris, VP Frank Adelman, and SR Taylor Smyth
 Mr. Ferrell - Pres. Curt Cato and SR Chase Miller
 Mr. Spiegel - Pres. Robert Rolfe and Co-SRs Bennett Davidson and Jim Shaub
 Mrs. Pettus - Pres. Christian Wadley and SR Morey Hill
 Mr. Woolsey - Pres. Jake Gidson and SR Walter Corn
 Mrs. Franks - Pres. Austin Branstetter, VP Sam Robinson, and SR Wilson Nealy
 Mr. Russ - Pres. Nathan Wade and SR Clay Money

Presidential Fitness Test

This fall, Jeff Francis broke the 7th Grade and Junior School record for pull ups. The number? 41!



Jeff Francis
How much does this kid lift!?

Fitness

Winners:

Situps- Allen Miller: 62
 Mile Run- Baker
 Mulherin: 6:01
 V-Sit- Davis Hunt: 10"
 Pull-Ups- Jeff Francis: 41
 Shuttle Run- Patrick Crum: 8.45

= AROUND MBA =

HOLA!

By Nicholas Caprioli

In an attempt to come up with the best article, I have chosen to do an interview with Mrs. Amy Seiters en Espanola. She has had no training in Spanish and has received NO HELP from anyone. Although these questions are COMPLETELY random, this article got a big thumbs up at my house.

Question: ¿Como te llamas? (What is your name?)

Answer: My name is Amy Seiters.

Q: ¿Que significan las siguientes frases? (What is the significance of these {questions}?)

A: My significant other is Jeff Seiters.

Q: ¿Vives cerca? (Do you live close?)

A: Party Friday.

Q: ¿En que mas efes dia de San Valentin? (When is Valentine's Day?)

A: February

Q: ¿En que mas es la Navidad? (When is Christmas?)

A: Merry Christmas.

She was now asked to translate the following words into English:

Q: La gallina (chicken)

A: Gallery

Q: el perro (dog)

A: Boy

Q: el gato (cat)

A: Cat

Q: el pajaro (bird)

A: pizza

Overall, if this were for a grade, Mrs. Seiters would have received a 45.

Each question was worth 10 points. (I gave her 5 points for Merry Christmas.)

How 'bout Them Colts!

By Taylor Colbert

Intramurals Champions of the World

When I say Colts, most of you will think about the NFL team led by Peyton Manning, but I know a different team named the Colts. The Junior School Intramural Program is underway with a fast start from the Colts, who are closely followed by their archivals, the Rams. The Colts have set three records this season (we

think) including most points scored in a speedball game (35 or so) and most points scored in Ultimate Frisbee (98). The last record they set was for the 1st person to ever get ejected from and intramurals game (*cough cough*). The games played in intramurals usually range from bomb softball, flag football, speedball, basketball, and Alaskan beach ball, or in our case, tennis ball-Beach ball. One team also draws the unfortunate event of going to the weight room. The champions (The Colts) consist of Robbie Weikert, Grant (Waiting for Soccer Season) Gardner, Hayes (Wrestling is Better) McWilliams, Taylor (KKTC) Colbert, Taylor Smyth, and Chad (Chadwick) Augusty. There are only three seventh graders on the team: Ben (Frostie) Gregory, Caldwell (Ritter) Ritter, and Robbie (Annie) Alsentzer.



8th Graders Get Down and Dirty Topographic Map Projects 2003



**Service
Announcement:
Bring coats for the
Coat Drive!**



Gentlemen Come in ALL Sizes!

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